

T E X A S S T A T E S E N A T O R

DON HUFFINES

CAPITOL UPDATE 2018



Hello Patriots!

It's an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Senate District 16. I work for you, not the government! I don't accept any pay, health care, or pension that the state offers. I fight for liberty, prosperity, and virtues, and not for self-promotion or more government.

The Texas Legislature won't meet again until 2019, but my work as your state Senator never ends. For example, as a member of the **Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools & School Security**, I spent part of my summer in Austin attending four hearings where I listened to the best & brightest experts and leaders. I also carefully evaluated Gov. Greg Abbott's thoughtful 44-page plan. School safety is a multi-faceted problem that requires a non-partisan approach and a civil discourse. We're going to act with commitment and a sense of urgency to keep students safe!

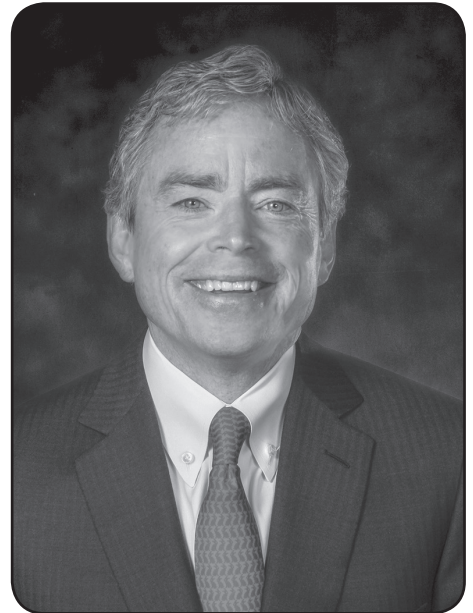
Please keep reading for a summary of recent accomplishments and my proposed 2019 Opportunity Agenda. God bless you, God bless your family, and God bless Texas.

In Liberty and Your Employee,

A handwritten signature of Don Huffines in black ink.

Don Huffines

Senate District Office: (214) 239-6131



**"I'm a watchdog for
Texas taxpayers!"**
-Senator Don Huffines

Adopt a Texas Foster Care Kid!

There are thousands of Texas children who are eagerly waiting to be part of a loving family. Please visit the **Texas Adoption Resource Exchange** to learn more:
<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Application/TARE/Home.aspx/Default>

About Senator Don Huffines

Don is a husband and father, a successful business owner, a lifelong grassroots activist, and a principled conservative who knows that our liberty comes from God, not government. In 1985, Don began his successful small business which he still owns and operates today. Don and his "beautiful, perfect" wife, Mary Catherine - as he lovingly refers to her - have shared over 30 years of marriage together and have been blessed with four sons and one daughter. Don has received many awards and recognitions for his public service. Most recently, he was named a 2017 "Legislator of the Year" by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and he earned a 100 percent voting record from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



As Vice Chairman of the Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, Senator Huffines participates in the May 22, 2018 hearing on veterans' health care & mental health.

MAKING DALLAS FIRST

As your state Senator, it's my job to serve the hardworking, taxpaying residents, working toward smart, principled solutions that serve the citizens of Senate District 16 best. My first focus is on my employers: the citizens and taxpayers of Senate District 16! In 2017, I authored and passed legislation to allow our local hospitals to benefit from additional federal dollars; to allow Dallas County government to operate more efficiently; and to end a dangerous, corrupt bus bureaucracy that was a disservice to students, parents, schools, and taxpayers.

BACKING THE BLUE

I started the 2017 Legislature with a goal of passing an entire package of bills to "back the blue," and we delivered! I authored and passed legislation to exempt the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed in the line of duty from paying property taxes (SB 15), and legislation to recognize July 7 as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day throughout Texas (HB 3042). I co-authored other legislation to create a grant program for high caliber bullet proof vests (SB 12), and to create a "blue alert" to help apprehend anyone who kills or harms a law enforcement officer (SB 1138). We also delivered a much-needed fix to the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System crisis.

KEEPING TEXANS SAFE

Border security is a federal responsibility, and although we're finally seeing some progress out of the federal government in Washington, D.C., the state legislature will continue to step up to keep Texans safe. In 2017, we allocated \$800 million to border security, and passed legislation to end dangerous sanctuary cities (SB 4). Criminal aliens belong behind bars, not walking freely on the streets of our communities with our families.

STANDING WITH OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS & TEACHERS

Senate District 16 has great public schools! With House Bill 21 in the 2017 Special Session, we increased public school funding by \$351 million and supported retired teachers' health care with an additional \$212 million. That same bill created the School Finance Commission, which is working to modernize and reform our school finance system. This will be a big opportunity to end "Robin Hood" wealth transfers between school districts! Moving forward, we will continue to work to ease state mandates, support higher teacher pay, and fix the Teacher Retirement System so teachers can be secure in their financial futures.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE KIDS

In 2017, your Texas Legislature reformed Child Protective Services (CPS) to help ensure that our foster care system protects the most vulnerable children of Texas. I coauthored Senate Bill 11, which improves accountability, planning, and organization to make certain that foster care children have appropriate placement and providers who achieve quality outcomes. The current state budget increases CPS funding by \$500 million and allows us to hire 600 new caseworkers.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING & DEFINING PRIORITIES

As a watchdog for taxpayers, I know the money you work so hard to earn is yours, not the government's! The state budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 meets that goal. The budget prioritizes protecting abused and neglected children while also funding education, mental health, transportation infrastructure, and border security. It passed the Senate with bi-partisan support and only one "no" vote out of all 31 senators.

2019 OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

When Texans work together, engage in civil discourse, and see beyond the obvious, we can accomplish great things. While the Texas Legislature won't convene again until 2019, I am already hard at work on an "opportunity agenda" to take the Texas economic success story to the next level.

Here are some ideas and priorities I'm working on now:

- Making our schools safer for all students;
- Cutting property taxes to make homeownership more affordable;
- Keeping Texans safe by securing the border, ending illegal immigration, and upholding our ban on dangerous sanctuary cities;
- Improving our local neighborhood public schools and standing for teachers;
- Getting more Texas foster care kids adopted into permanent, loving homes;
- Reforming criminal justice, ending debtors' prison, reforming or stopping civil asset forfeiture, and decriminalizing some minor traffic violations;
- Imposing term limits on all elected office holders;
- Reforming state government with better ethics laws, more transparency, and stronger accountability;
- Taking down red light cameras;
- Ending the outdated "vehicle inspection tax" that wastes our time and money;
- Lowering and repealing state taxes on your telephone bill;
- Empowering parents and students with school choice and freedom in education;
- Rolling-back regulations, standing for the free market, and ending unnecessary occupational licenses;
- Making toll-free transportation infrastructure a state government priority;
- Standing for values, virtues, and life;
- *And much more to advance liberty, prosperity, and virtues!*

What's your view? My public service as your state Senator is better informed when I hear the opinions, ideas, and concerns of the constituents of Senate District 16. You can email me at don.huffines@senate.texas.gov, or call my Dallas office at (214) 239-6131.

Texas' greatest days are yet to dawn, and our future is limitless.



Senator Huffines listens to expert testimony during the June 11, 2018 hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools & School Security.

Attendance Record



85th Legislature
100% - 4,064 record votes
2017 Committees: 98.8%



84th Legislature
100% - 3,909 record votes
2015 Committees: 96.80%



Senator Huffines accepts a Texas Liberator medal from the Texas Holocaust & Genocide Commission on behalf of his father, who was a World War II hero who helped liberate European concentration camps.

CONTACT OUR OFFICES



I have an open door policy for meeting with constituents. Contact me!

DISTRICT OFFICE

8222 Douglas Avenue
Suite 675
Dallas, Texas 75225
(214) 239-6131

CAPITOL OFFICE

P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station, Room E1.608
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0116

don.huffines@senate.texas.gov

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The Senate of The State of Texas

SENATOR DON HUFFINES

P.O. Box 12068 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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2018



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Senator Don Huffines' 2018 Capitol Update Report

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